



#17
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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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BYRNE
GREEN

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AT A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIATION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHICH HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STRIKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT POWERS IN THE SERVICE OF HIS FELLOW MAN, BECAUSE HE LEARNED AN INVALUABLE LESSON: WITH GREAT POWER MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

DUST IN THE WIND

HIS NAME IS THE
SANDMAN!

AND RIGHT
NOW...
...HE'S DYING!

MYSTERIO!

IT'S
YOUR
FAULT THIS
HAPPENED
TO ME!
I'M
GOING TO
FIND
YOU...
...AND
MAKE YOU
PAY!

JOHN L. BYRNE
HOWARD MACKIE
story and art

Dan Green
inks

RS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
letters

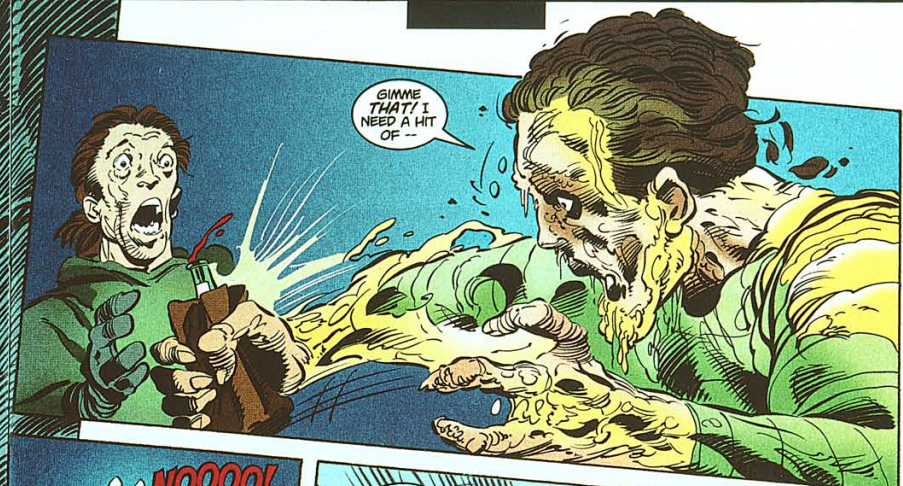
Joe Rosas colors

RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief

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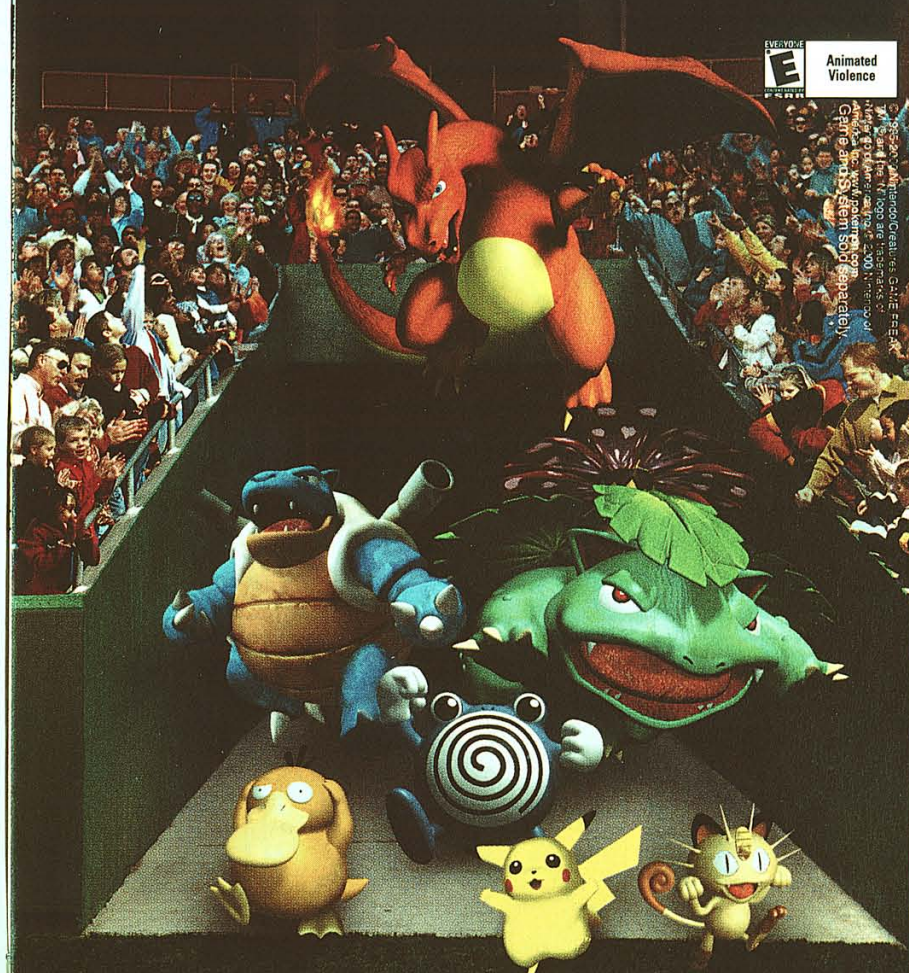
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* This happened in last month's Peter Parker: Spider-Man -- Recappin' Ralf.



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RETURNING THIS MARCH!

Family Guy

FAMILY. RE-ANIMATED.

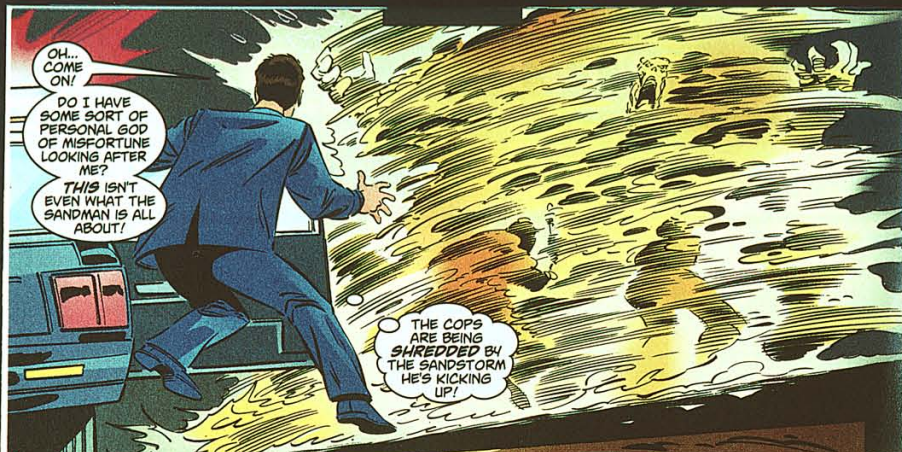
"Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in."



RETURNS TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH 8:30PM/7:30C
FOLLOWING 'THAT '70s SHOW'

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OH...
COME
ON!
DO I HAVE
SOME SORT OF
PERSONAL GOD
OF MISFORTUNE
LOOKING AFTER
ME?
THIS ISN'T
EVEN WHAT THE
SANDMAN IS ALL
ABOUT!

THE COPS
ARE BEING
SHREDDED BY
THE SANDSTORM
HE'S KICKING
UP!



I'VE
GOT TO --
GOT
YOU!



THEY'RE
HURTING
BAD.
THEY
NEED MAJOR
HELP...
...AS DOES
MY SUIT!
EVEN
IF I HAD
ANOTHER
SUIT...



...I
DON'T HAVE
THE TIME...?
MY
WATCH IS
BROKEN?



I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
HOW LATE I
AM FOR THE
INTERVIEW
AND...
...MARY
JANE GAVE
ME THAT
WATCH!
FINE!

FATE
CONSPIRES
AGAINST ME
TO MAKE SURE
I STAY BEATEN
DOWN!



FINE!
EVERYTHING
THAT CAN GO
WRONG DOES
GO
WRONG...
...FINE!



CHILDREN
IN TROUBLE,
DRUG BUSTS...THE
SANDMAN!



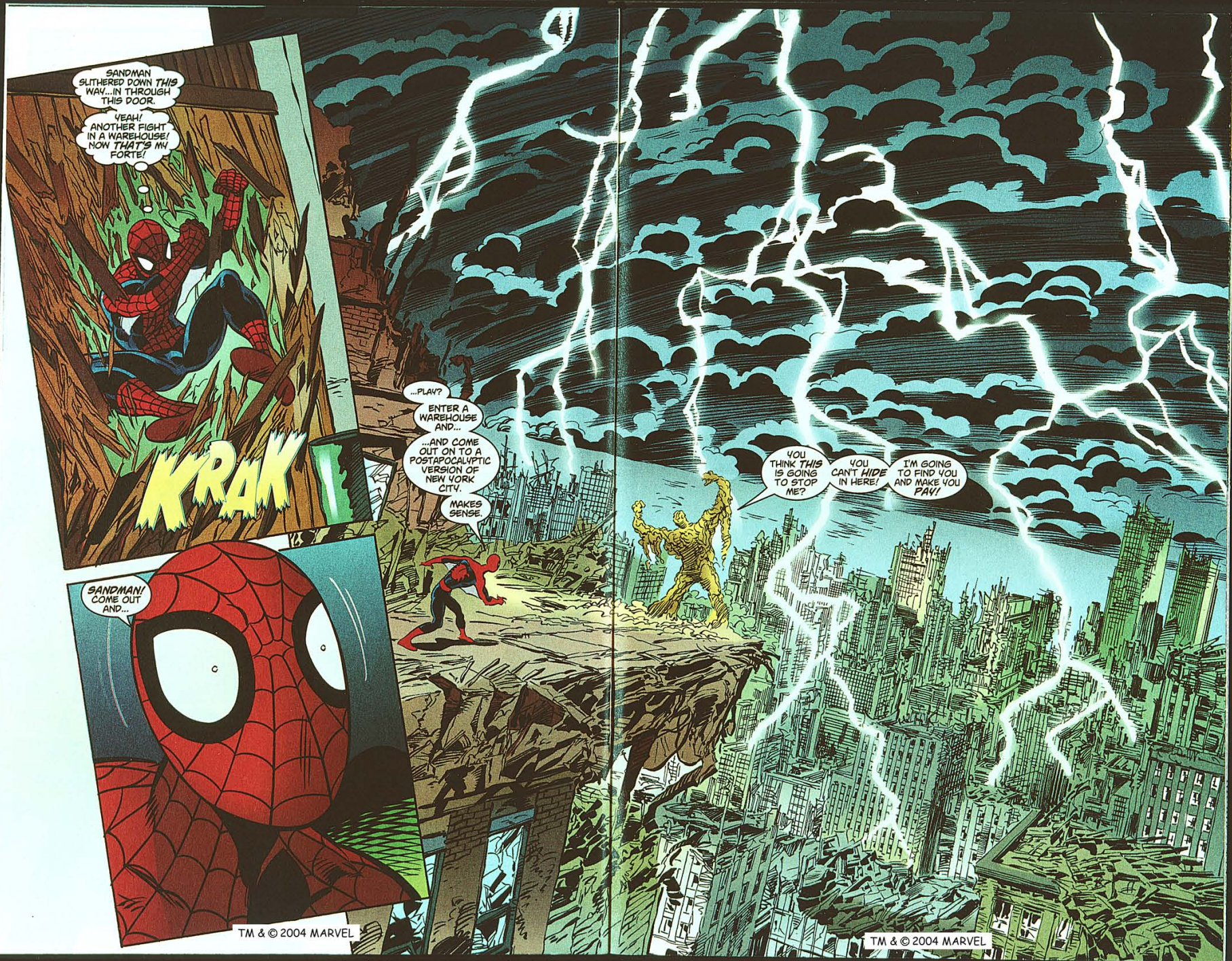
FINE! FINE!
FINE!
I'LL
HANDLE IT
ALL!



I'LL SAVE
THE DAY! I'LL
BEAT THE BAD
GUY! AND I WILL
GET TO MY
BLASTED JOB
INTERVIEW!
BECAUSE...



...I AM
GOING TO
HAVE A
LIFE!



SANDMAN
SLITHERED DOWN THIS
WAY...IN THROUGH
THIS DOOR.

YEAH!
ANOTHER FIGHT
IN A WAREHOUSE!
NOW THAT'S MY
FORTE!

KRAK

SANDMAN!
COME OUT
AND...

...PLAY?

ENTER A
WAREHOUSE
AND...

...AND COME
OUT ON TO A
POSTAPOCALYPTIC
VERSION OF
NEW YORK
CITY.

MAKES
SENSE.

YOU
THINK THIS
IS GOING
TO STOP
ME?

YOU
CAN'T HIDE
IN HERE!

I'M GOING
TO FIND YOU
AND MAKE YOU
PAY!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE MARCH 15TH

BISHOP: THE LAST X-MAN

What are the shocking secrets that the Sentinel named GOL-19 possesses about the final days of the X-Men? Plus: Bishop takes one step closer to identifying the location of the Chronomancer! By JOSEPH HARRIS and GEORGES JEANTY!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Ka-Zar... killed?! Who is responsible for the horrible dinosaur and human hybrids wreaking havoc in the Savage Land? And what does he want with Sharon Carter? Plus: A never-before-seen look into Captain America's origin! By DAN JURGENS and BRENT ANDERSON!

CAPTAIN MARVEL

In the aftermath of last month's clash, Captain Marvel and Drax the Destroyer find themselves transported to a familiar spot in the Marvel Universe — one where Drax is worshipped as a god, and Genesis is considered a villain! By PETER DAVID and CHRIS CROSS!

DAREDEVIL

The Kingpin finds out firsthand as Foggy Nelson goes to court to clean house — with Wilson Fisk's own files! Meanwhile, Black Widow is back in Matt Murdock's life... but so is Maya and the assassin they call Echo! By DAVID MACK and JOE QUESADA!

INCREDIBLE HULK

His name is Ryker, and he's been secretly dogging the green goliath's tracks for years! Who is he? What does he want with Bruce Banner? And just how does his shadowy, long-term agenda connect to the testing of an experimental gamma bomb all those years ago? By PAUL JENKINS and RON GARNEY!

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN

It's a first in Spider-Man history: J. Jonah Jameson will no longer publish photos of the wall-crawler! Is this because he finally knows who's under Spider-Man's mask? By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

THUNDERBOLT ANNUAL

What mysterious message did Mockingbird have for Hawkeye in AVENGERS #117? That's the big question, as Clint Barton and Hellstorm make an assault on the Metherworld of Mephisto to free the soul of the brash bowman's dead wife! By FABIAN NICIEZA and NORM BREVFOGLE!

X-51

A gang of street toughs from Central City have gained control of an alien weapon of unspeakable power — and only Machine Man has a chance of saving the town from devastation. Unfortunately, X-51 is a hunted outlaw and can't perform his robotic magic in public view! Can Aaron Stark alone save the city? By KARL BOLLERS and JOE BENNETT!

X-MAN

A mysterious group of financiers, artists and technologists in New York City are being whittled down, one by one, by something strange and terrible in the dark. And only one man has the power, and the distance from the world, to see it clearly. That man is Nate Grey, the X-Man, mutant shaman for the 21st Century! By WARREN ELLIS and STEVEN GRANT!

X-MEN

In the intervening days, the characters we've grown to love have undergone startling changes. And, in the shadows, from above and below, the X-Men have been targeted by a new enemy — one that may be even more powerful and ruthless than En Sabah Nur himself! By CHRIS CLAREMONT and LEINIL FRANCIS YU!

Hi, Heroes!
You'd be surprised how many letters we get asking the same question as this one. So, for all of you out there, this is from Shawn Coolidge of South Lyon, MI...

"What education do you need to be a Marvel artist? Art school or college?"

Although the more education you have the better it'll be for you, all you really need is talent! Some artists are lucky enough to be able to draw beautifully without ever having taken an art course, while some of our best artists have taken many, many courses in art. But why leave it to chance, Shawn? If I were you I'd get the best art education that I could. No matter what you plan to do in life, your chances will be immeasurably greater if you start out with as much knowledge as possible.

Stephen Barnes of Fareham, Hants, United Kingdom, poses our next curious query:

"I have noted the changing role of the Black Widow, from Russian spy to an American based international super-spy/superheroine. I would like to know if Marvel Comics actively represented cold war 'frees' and 'thaws' in its story-lines over the past decades?"

Right on, Steve! We repped everything that was going on in the world ever since we started Marveling! Whether it was politics, warfare, crime, or my own particular favorite, far-out international espionage and intrigue, you name it -- we repped it!

Here's my favorite kind of question, from Antonio Elepano of Elmhurst, NY...

"If the Human Torch is the 'fire-man,' and Ice Man is the 'ice-man,' then who would you say is the 'electricity man?' Me, I'd say he has to be Electro!"

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, you wanna know why that's my favorite kind of question? Here's the reason: Antonio answered it himself, so I don't have to wrack my weary little brain!

For our wrap-up, let's turn to Davis Z. Laabs of Odessa, TX who yearns to learn...

"I've been reading the X-Men letters page ever since Storm has a Mohawk, and it seems to me there are more female readers than there used to be. Is that so?"

You're dead right, Davey. Each month more and more females latch on to the wisdom and wonderment of good ol' Marvel -- and the great thing about it is, more and more males do, too! However, to be sure that our facts are scientifically accurate, perhaps all our female readers should send me their names, together with a real nice photo, and -- Hey, put those pens away! I'm only kidding!

And so we refully reach the end of another excellent excursion into enlightenment and elucidation! Once again, the mantle of No-Prizedom has fallen on the grateful shoulders of a new coterie of corresponders, all of whom are pledged never to shame or dishonor the glorious ranks of No-Prize Laureates throughout the world! But, though it's time to leave, I'd never forgive myself if I departed without reminding you of this time-honored truism, this cogent quotation: amor vincit omnia!

Excelsior!
Stan Lee

Stan's Soapbox
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X marks the spot!

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This week's chat schedule!

3/15 @ 9pm ET
GAMBIT and BISHOP editor -- MIKE MARTS!

3/16 @ 9:30pm ET
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CHAT with writer, KURT BUSIEK and editor, TOM BREVOORT!

3/20 @ 8pm ET
COMICS LEGEND -- JOHN ROMITA, SR.!

3/21 @ 9pm ET
The official MARVEL KNIGHTS chat with -- JOE QUESADA and JIMMY PALMIOTTI!

3/21 @ 10pm ET
INHUMANS and INCREDIBLE HULK writer -- PAUL JENKINS!

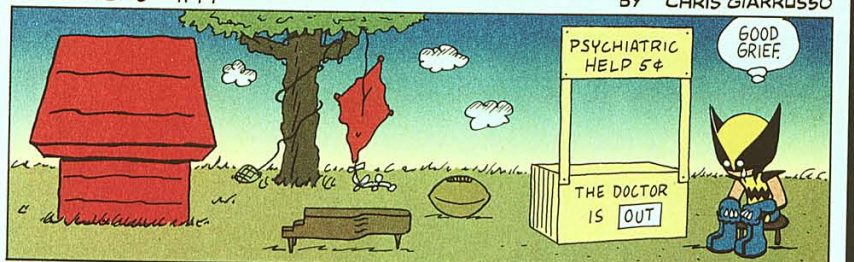
AOL Keyword: Marvel

All Chat schedules subject to change/cancellation

Refer to Keyword: Marvel > Astral Plane > Chat Schedule for latest schedule.

BULLPEN BITS #44

BY CHRIS GIARRUSSO



Design by Richard Starkings and COMICRAFT/EW

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ER... EXCUSE ME, SANDMAN, BUT EXACTLY WHO ARE WE RANTING AT?

WHAT? SPIDER-MAN?

WELL, BACK OFF! THIS IS PARTIALLY YOUR FAULT, TOO! YOU SHOULD'VE STOPPED VENOM BEFORE HE DID THIS TO ME!

SORRY, BUT WHERE --

WE ARE IN THE WAREHOUSE, YOU MORON! HE'S JUST PLAYIN' WITH OUR HEADS, TRYING TO KEEP US OFF BALANCE!

WELL... I'VE GOT NEWS FOR HIM! I'M ALREADY OFF BALANCE! AND IT'S HIS FAULT!



MYSTERIO!

WHAT A GENIUS! HOW DO YOU SURVIVE ON THE STREETS AGAINST THE LIKES OF US?

NO OFFENSE, BUT... YOU DON'T STRIKE ME AS THE SHARPEST CRAYON IN THE BOX!

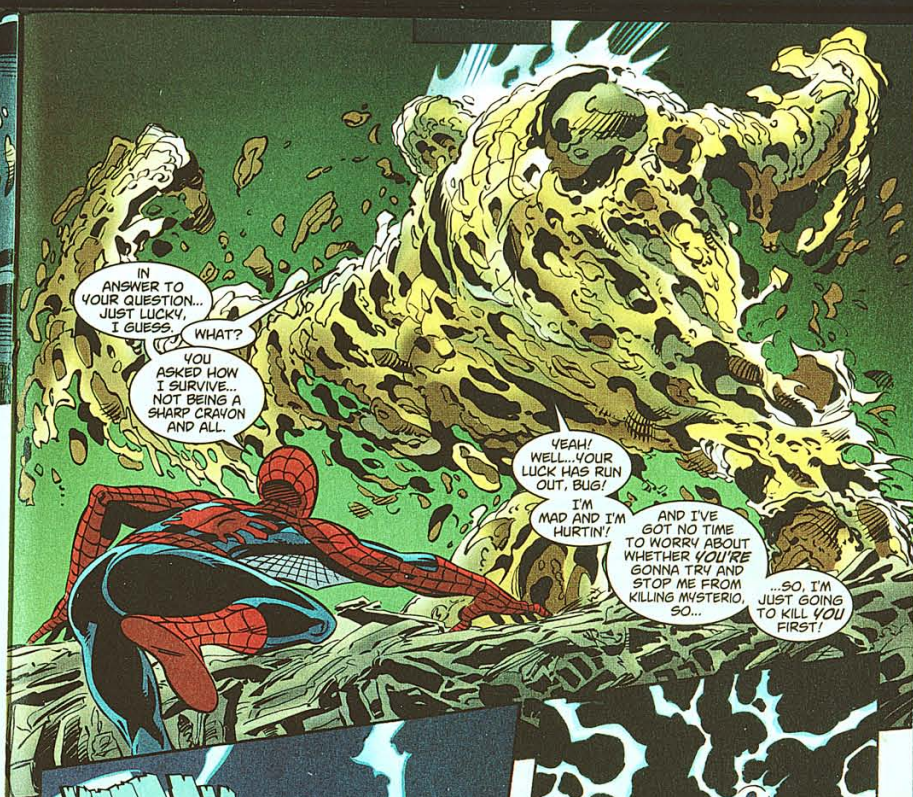


MYSTERIO IS THE ONE THAT CONVINCED ME TO LET VENOM TAG ALONG WHEN I TRIED PULLING THE SINISTER SIX TOGETHER.

AND THEN IT WAS THAT FISHBOWL-HEADED FREAK THAT SENT VENOM OVER THE EDGE WHEN HE STARTED OFF ON HIS OWN AGENDA.

NOW VENOM WANTS ALL THE SINISTER SIX DEAD, AND I'M THE FIRST ONE TO SUFFER.

BEFORE I DIE, I'M JUST GOIN' TO MAKE SURE THAT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE!



IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION... JUST LUCKY, I GUESS.

WHAT?

YOU ASKED HOW I SURVIVE... NOT BEING A SHARP CRAYON AND ALL.

YEAH! WELL... YOUR LUCK HAS RUN OUT, BUG! I'M MAD AND I'M HURTIN'!

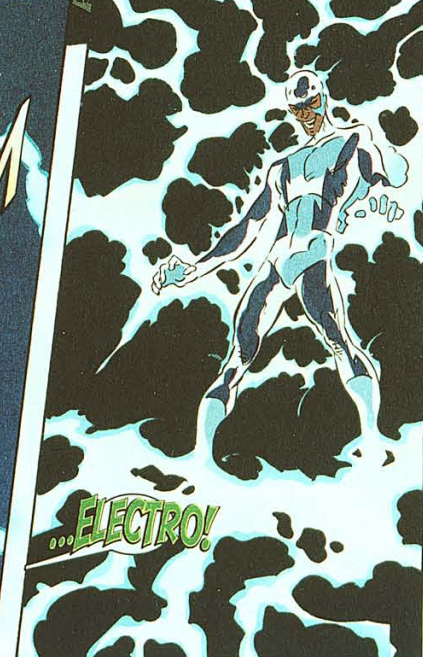
AND I'VE GOT NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT WHETHER YOU'RE GONNA TRY AND STOP ME FROM KILLING MYSTERIO, SO...

...SO, I'M JUST GOING TO KILL YOU FIRST!

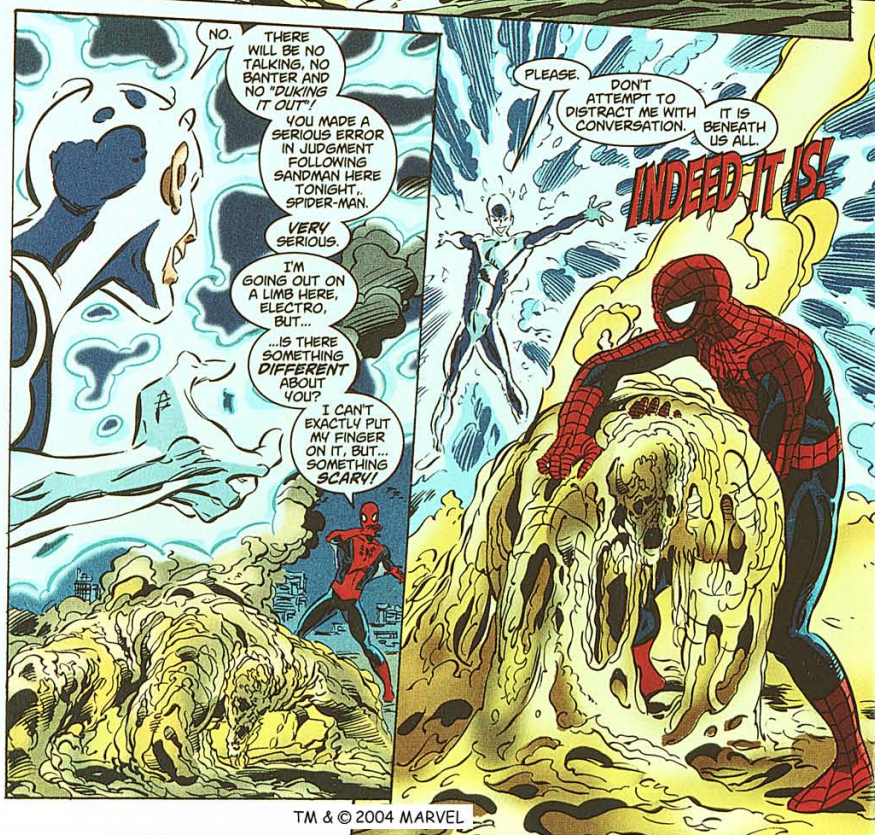
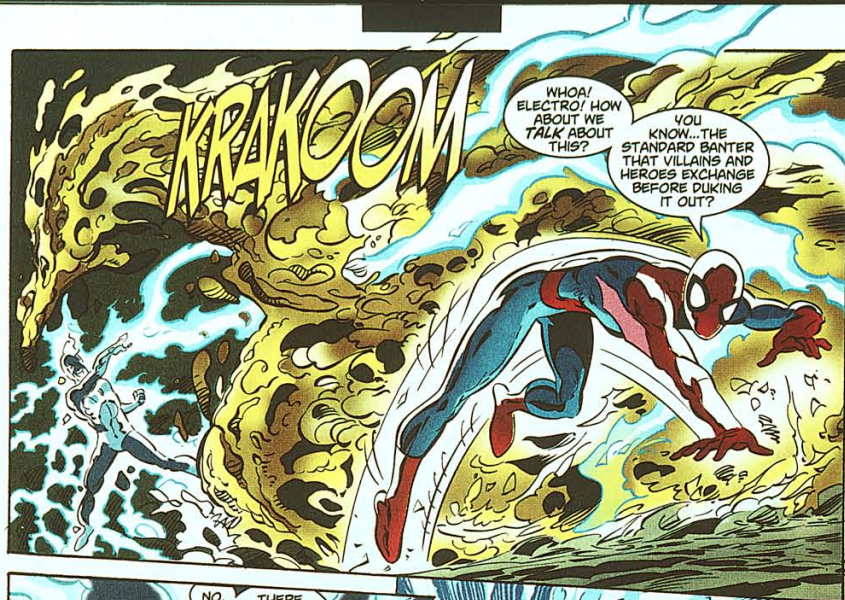


NOW THAT WAS NO STINKIN' ILLUSION!

NO, IT'S MYSTERIO'S WHIPPIN' DOG...



...ELECTRO!



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- ☐ DDV Daredevil
- ☐ FAN Fantastic Four
- ☐ INC Hulk
- ☐ IRM Iron Man
- ☐ THO Thor
- ☐ BLT Thunderbolts

X-MEN

- ☐ BSH Bishop
- ☐ CAB Cable
- ☐ DDP Deadpool
- ☐ GAM Gambit
- ☐ GEN Generation X
- ☐ MTX Mutant X
- ☐ XME Uncanny X-Men
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H03MD5

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I JUST WANT YOU BOTH TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU'RE PICKING SPLINTERS OUT OF YOUR BUTTS...

...I WAS WILLING TO BANTER! COME ON, SANDMAN.

FRANKOOOM

YOU SHOULD'VE LET ME DIE.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER THAN LIVIN' LIKE THIS!

I'M A GOOD GUY, COULDN'T DO THAT.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME... THE POLICE WILL HANDLE YOU FROM HERE...

...AND HOPEFULLY THIS TIME SOMEONE REMEMBERED TO CALL THE AVENGERS!

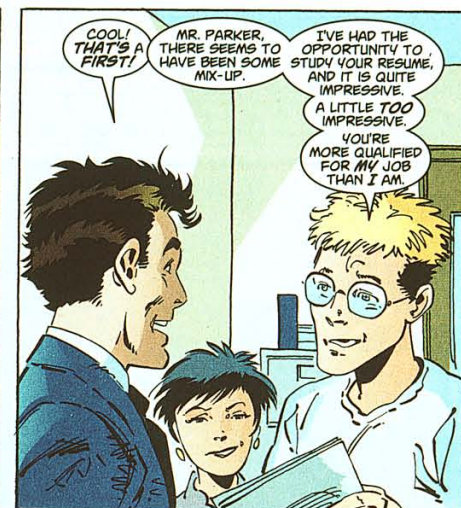
BUT I AM VERY LATE FOR AN APPOINTMENT. I THINK.



A SHORT TIME LATER...

HI! I'M PETER PARKER! SORRY I'M LATE, BUT --

ACTUALLY... ..YOU'RE EARLY.



COOL! THAT'S A FIRST!

MR. PARKER, THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOME MIX-UP.

I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY YOUR RESUME, AND IT IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE. A LITTLE TOO IMPRESSIVE. YOU'RE MORE QUALIFIED FOR MY JOB THAN I AM.



I'M AFRAID A SMALL START-UP COMPANY LIKE OURS COULD NEVER HOLD YOUR INTEREST FOR LONG.

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PASS. BUT -- SORRY.



YEAH... ME, TOO! NOW WHAT DO I DO?



I NEED MONEY. I NEED A JOB! I NEED A LIFE.



THE END

THE SPIDER-MAN WEB

MATT HICKS
ASSISTANT
EDITOR

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF



Well, we knew we had to deal with them sometime. So, we brace ourselves for the onslaught and begin opening the mail for AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #13. There's an awful lot of it, and much of it is understandably not kind. We'll do our best to include as many of your comments as space allows, so please be patient with us, if not forgiving.

Dear Ralf,

This is a joke, right? I mean, this can't be anything permanent, can it?

I've been following Spidey's adventures since I was a kid, and the one thing that I always hoped for is that he'd find some measure of peace in his life. Finally, it seemed to have happened. He married Mary Jane, Aunt May seems to be doing all right, and he got the dream science gig that he'd always wanted. Plus, he could still do the super hero stuff, which is why we buy this mag in the first place.

And then you had to go and do that.

Hey, the stalker storyline worked. So did the tensions in the marriage. But they could've been resolved differently. After all that Peter's been through over the years, he deserved that much at least.

So, fellas, tell me that it's not true. Please.

Mike Russo
Doylstown, PA

Mike, a lot of people would like you to tell them things are different than they are, even if, deep down, you know that's not the case. Without making any specific comments about the plot element in question, we won't do that to you.

Dear Spider's Web,

Wow! What an ending! Is this the end? Could MJ be gone for good? I'm on pins and needles. Does this say enough? Oh yeah, the art was great too.

Is it true that John Byrne is leaving the book? If so, then allow me to say, "Thank you, John!" I remember your art from MARVEL TEAM-UP, and I have to say that your art is better than ever! (Your writing isn't bad either.) What else can I say, but thanks for a great issue... again!

Paul Brouch
BROUCHPAUL@aol.com

You're welcome.

Dear Spider's Web,

Oh, come on! You guys kill off Norman Osborn and bring him back, you kill off Aunt May and bring her back too, and then you expect us to believe (even for a second) that Mary Jane is dead in a plane accident? Oh, wait! I got it! Gwen Stacy is really the stalker!

Mark Parisi
Segecious@aol.com

Do we detect a wee note of sarcasm in your tone, Mark?

Dear Spider's Web,

I have been reading and collecting Spider-Man comics for well over 20 years. Of all the heroes out there, I would have to say that the ol' webhead is my favorite. The main reason why is that Spidey's alter-ego, Peter Parker, is a true-to-life character. When I first found out that Marvel was going to revamp Spider-Man, I was going to stop my relationship with the webhead. But that was after the first issues, and I for one have to say nothing has really changed, except Spidey's origin.

What I really want to complain about is how much grief you have been giving Peter. It is as if Peter being Spidey again is bad luck. The way Peter and Mary Jane's marriage has been lately it stands to reason you guys were planning on divorcing them. But no.

As I was reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #13, I really thought that you guys were going to put things right and save their marriage. But instead, I guess you have to boost sales and create total havoc with Peter's life once again. You had to show Mary Jane's plane blowing up.

I don't think that killing MJ off like that is really kosher. Quite frankly, I am shocked it happened. No, I am not going to stop reading Spidey, because Peter needs all the support he can get right now. I will always be loyal to my favorite character, and right now I am not going to let him down like you guys have done.

I am here to the end.

Jeff Guntle
Alamosa, CO

We're glad to hear that, Jeff. We're sorry you're not pleased with this story direction (and believe us, you're certainly not alone there), but we appreciate your rolling with the changes.

Dear Spider's Web,

I can't believe what I saw on the last page of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #13. This has got to be a ruse of some sort. You're playing with the audience; this can't be happening!

But I'm not surprised (how contradictory, eh?? I should make up my mind). I know that the tension Peter experiences with the opposite sex is part of what has made his character so appealing to the masses, and I know that there have been second thoughts about how Peter's marriage has changed all that. Further, it's the only logical way, given Peter's character, that another girl could be thrown into the works.

But still, it's sad to see such an end (if this indeed is the end) for a character who has been a part of continuity for nearly 40 years, although I wouldn't be surprised if she was just kidnapped by her stalker or whoever, and I wouldn't be surprised if she

reappears in the near, or maybe even the distant future.

We know that little May was kidnapped. Maybe someone's goal was to steal Peter's entire family from him (I'd like to think Norman and/or the Scierers were involved but I know you guys want to steer clear of any clone-related stuff for a while—I guess only time will tell).

Tyrone Maxey
Windsor, Ontario

Indeed, Tyrone, time will tell... in time.

Dear Spider's Web,

Sneaky, people. But not nearly sneaky enough.

"Frakoom!" The plane MJ was on is blown apart... the operative word being "was." Clear as day, the hatch in the back of the plane had been blown open, most likely so Lollipop Guy could do a little skydiving with MJ while everybody else met their fiery demise.

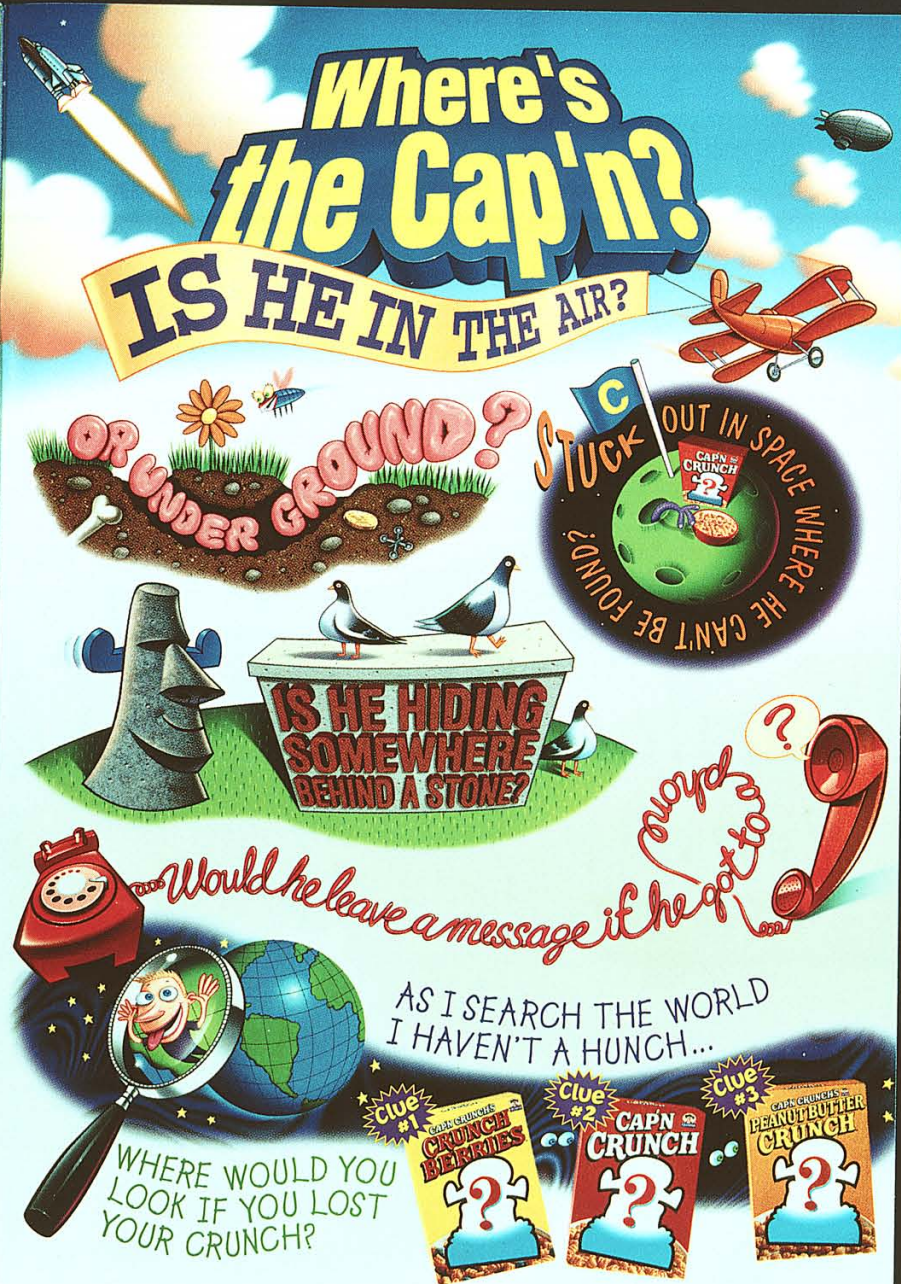
Now I'm not sure how accessible that luggage/cargo area is from the passenger section of a commercial airliner, but never mind. It makes sense that he'd blow up the plane; with MJ presumed dead, nobody would think to look for her, and he'd have her all to himself.

Rob Brown
rob4444@hotmail.com

You saw what on that last page, Rob? We're not sure exactly what it is you're referring to. It must be a printing error on your copy only. Yeah, that's what it is.

NEXT ISSUE:

DRAG OUT THAT MUSTY OLD TUXEDO... IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE JOHN BYRNE'S LAST ISSUE! BUT JOHN'S GOING OUT IN STYLE, AS A DEEPLY TROUBLED SPIDEY HAS TO DEAL WITH THE RETURN OF THE GREEN GOBLIN! NOT ONLY THAT, BUT JOHN'S PENCILS WILL BE INKED BY THE LEGENDARY JOHN ROMITA, SR! SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? PLUNK DOWN YOUR CHANGE TODAY AND RESERVE THIS MASTERPIECE BY HOWARD, JOHN AND JOHN. RALF, MEANWHILE, WILL BE RESERVING HIS SPOT IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINE.



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